

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 20-23, and 25-28 are presently pending. Claims 2, 21-23, 25-28, and 30 have been canceled herein. Claims 69-75 have been added herein. Support for these claims is found at least at page 3, lines 11-13; page 10, lines 7-9; page 11, lines 26-28; page 26, lines 3-16; and page 32, lines 4-6.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Regarding Claim 3, the Examiner states that the limitation of "going from D1 to D2" is indefinite, since it is not clear what it refers to.

Claim 3 depends from amended Claim 1, which recites D1 and D2.

With respect to Claim 8, the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the outside diameter".

Claim 8 has been amended to recite "an outside diameter" to overcome this rejection. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4-7, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Leedom (U.S. Patent 5,825,896). The Examiner also notes that Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 2. Claim 20 has also been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 2.

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (SIDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the SIDS is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 

Erik L. Ence

Registration No. 42,511

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: August 20, 2004